

## Report – December 2007

The World Conference of Religions for Peace (commonly known as Religions for Peace), is the largest world interfaith body incorporating some fifty countries and thirteen religions around the world (see [www.wcrp.org](http://www.wcrp.org) .) is made up of national chapters and has regional bodies as well. I serve as an International President of this organization and thus on its Executive Committee which convenes annually and this year was hosted at the beginning of December in Alexandria Egypt at the famous and impressive Biblioteca (see [www.bibalex.com](http://www.bibalex.com) ) by its Director Dr. Ismail Seragaldin. The meeting itself focused on the global work of WCRP but also on its support for initiatives such as the Council of the Religious Institutions of the Holy Land and the work to establish a Middle East Council that would bring together religious leadership from Morocco to Iran. Among the members of the Executive Committee are leaders from Egypt, Libya, Pakistan, Syria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia; so this is an opportunity for me to interact and build relationships with individuals whom I might not normally have the opportunity to engage.

Prior to the Alexandria meeting, I was in Cairo in order to meet with the Grand Mufti, Sheikh Ali Gomaa to update him on developments regarding the Interreligious Council of the Holy Land; to discuss a number of initiatives to combat hostility and violence as well as the document A Common Word issued by Muslim scholars to Christian leaders ([www.acommonword.com](http://www.acommonword.com) ) and how Jewry might be included in this process.

Following on from the BOG and Commission meetings I was in London for a meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Economic Forum's C-100 for promoting relations between the Muslim and Western societies. The primary purpose was to review the new Annual Report on the state of these relations. In addition the C-100 gives a prize to an individual who in business, arts, civil society, etc. has made a notable contribution to advances positive relations between the Muslim and western worlds. The recipient for this year's award was Prince Charles and thus the Executive Committee was invited to St. James' palace for the award presentation. The work of the C-100 will continue at the WEF Annual meeting in Davos next month and at the WEF Middle East summit in Sharm-a-Sheikh in May.